



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

Community Connect Awards - Michigan

2004 Grant Awards:

Crystal Automation Systems, Inc.
Walkerville, Michigan
Grant Amount: \$444,363
Contact: Jerry Weissberg, 989-831-8800
County: Oceana

Students, public safety personnel and farmers are among the 254 residents of Walkerville, MI who will benefit from Crystal Automation Systems, Inc.'s, efforts to bring broadband access to rural Michigan. Police and firefighters will gain access to online training and be able to comply with State reporting requirements for online transmission of information. The schools will connect to the Internet faster, increasing students' access to enhanced curricula and improving administrative efficiency. Crystal will employ the company's expertise in wireless Internet access to deploy a point to point network to bring high-speed access to the village, and point to multipoint distribution to the residents, with appropriately sized capacity for critical facilities like the fire station.

2003 Grant Awards:

Air Advantage, LLC
Port Hope, Michigan
Grant Amount: \$219,176
Contact: Scott Zimmer, 989-652-9500
County: Huron

Port Hope is a small rural town, population 310, located on the "tip of the thumb" in Michigan. The funds for this grant will be used to enhance fire, police, ambulance and public sector organizations through high-speed connectivity and access to the Internet. This will also improve educational and information opportunities, telemedicine services and enhanced communications. The project establishes the Port Hope Community Center as a place where residents will have high speed Internet access. This connectivity will open the door to affordable broadband services to businesses for Internet access and business-to-business communications. It provides one more tool to be used for economic development.



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Air Advantage, LLC

Unionville, Michigan

Grant Amount: \$214,532

Contact: Scott Zimmer, 989-652-9500

County: Tuscola

Unionville, Michigan is a rural town with a population of 620 people. The funds for this grant will be used to enhance fire, police, ambulance and public sector organizations through high-speed connectivity and access to the Internet. This will also improve educational and information opportunities, telemedicine services and enhanced communications. The project establishes the Unionville Community Center as a place where residents will have high speed Internet access.